Investigations Against Ex-Director of NIO, Dauna Paula, Goa

1536. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any C. B. I. investigations are going on in the conduct of ex-Director of N. I. O., Dauna Paula, Goa who retired on 31st March, 1994;

(b) what are the main charges investigated;

(c) at what stage the investigation has reached; and

(d) whether this retired officer was permitted to leave the country pending these investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The CBI conducted only discreet verification of the alleged submission of false bills to the Department of Ocean Development by ex-Director and other Officers of NIO towards expenditure incurred in collection of polymetalic nodules in the Indian Ocean.

(c) The CBI, while forwarding the findings of their investigation, have suggested that the matter may be looked into departmentally for taking action against the concerned Officers.

(d) Since the Ex-Director of the Institute was due to retire on attaining the age of superannuation on 31st March, 1994 and he had applied for a No Objection Certificate for going abroad thereafter, the advice of Central Vigilance Commission was sought in the matter. The Commission observed that as per the information furnished by CBI, no vigilance angle could be revealed. Taking into consideration this fact, No Objection was accordingly conveyed for obtaining a private passport by him. Suitable action against him under relevant rules will be initiated, in case the investigations lead to any substantial evidence about his involvement in the matter.

Qualified Scientists & Researchers facing Unemployment

1537. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Scientists and Fellows Association, Lucknow has been making representations to the effect that a large number of qualified scientists and Researchers are facing unemployment and if so, the steps taken by the Government to open employment opportunities for them; and

(b) the estimated number of scientific and technically qualified persons employed at present and whether Government have formulated any plans for absorbing them in the R&D programmes and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

There are a number of schemes which are existing for the Research Scientists and Research Fellows for providing them with opportunities to pursue research. The important ones are:

(i) A special Scheme for Young Scientists only for supporting their research work for a period of two-three years, which includes the salary of the Research Scientist;